

# Clinical Laboratory Update

February 2021

[www.milwaukee.gov/healthlab](http://www.milwaukee.gov/healthlab)

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## From the desk of the Public Health Laboratory Director

### COVID genomic surveillance

The MHD Laboratory is now performing whole genome sequencing for SARS-CoV-2 positive samples from the Milwaukee area, working in collaboration with UW-Madison, WSLH and other clinical labs. This is an effort toward expanding genomic surveillance to monitor SARS-CoV-2 transmission and trends, identify circulating variants in SE Wisconsin, and support nationwide surveillance. De-identified sequences are uploaded into the open access GISAID database to allow global sharing of data and improve surveillance efforts. For more info on submitting COVID specimens for genomic surveillance testing to MHD, please contact us at (414) 286-3526 or [mhdlab@milwaukee.gov](mailto:mhdlab@milwaukee.gov).

National Genomic Surveillance Dashboard:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/variant-surveillance/genomic-surveillance-dashboard.html>

Wisconsin COVID cases and variants

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/cases.htm#variant>

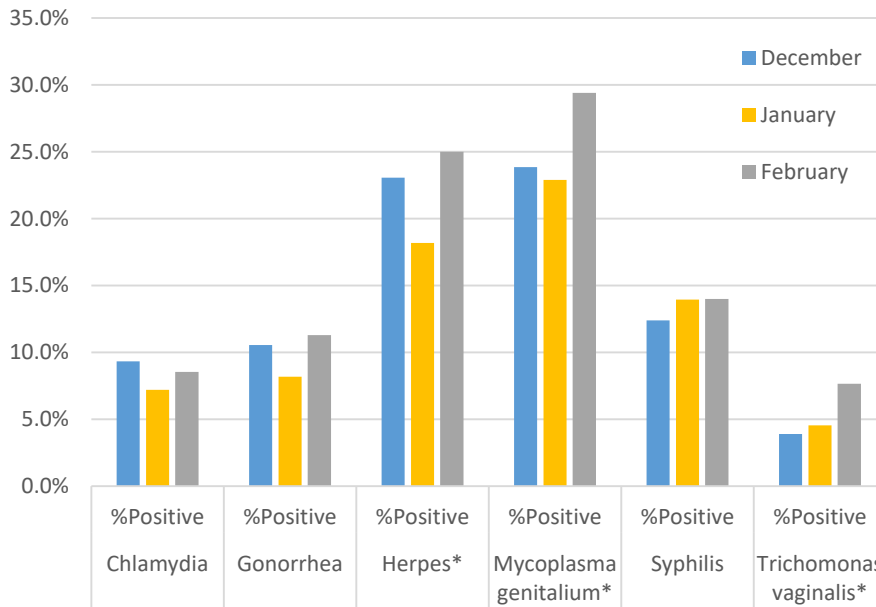
### MHDL ends weekend COVID testing hours

MHDL has discontinued its weekend COVID testing operations effective March 1, 2021. We are asking that samples being submitted on Friday be received prior to 4 pm to ensure timely processing; otherwise, results may not be reported until Monday AM. Partners can also continue to drop off samples on Saturday and Sunday or anytime outside of normal business hours by following [after-hours drop off instructions](#), with the understanding that those samples will not be processed until Monday.

### MHDL closed for Good Friday holiday

Please be aware that MHDL will be closed for the upcoming Good Friday holiday on **Friday, April 2**. We will return to normal business hours on Monday, April 5. Once again, COVID specimens can still be dropped off on the holiday and over the weekend following the after-hours drop off instructions linked above.

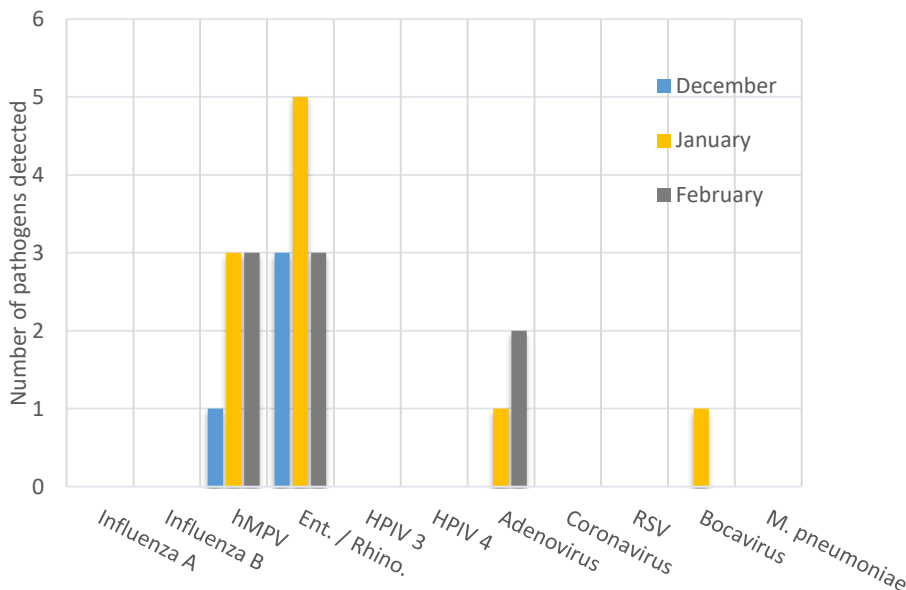
## Sexually Transmitted Infections



**Figure 1:** Percent positivity for specimens screened using molecular or serological assays for the given organism.

\*Not reportable as per WI DHS 145.04 (3) (a)

## Respiratory Infections



**Figure 2:** Respiratory pathogens detected using a Respiratory Pathogen Panel (RPP) and/or RT-PCR Influenza assay.

Connect with your health department:



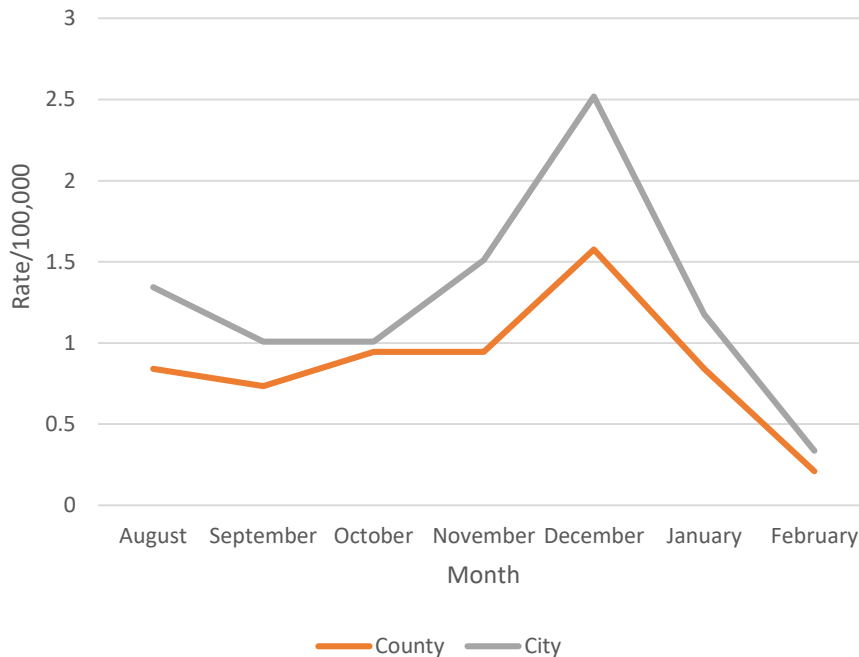
Links to related information & data:

[MHDL COVID-19 Testing website](#)

[MHD COVID-19 Situation](#)

[WSLH Laboratory Surveillance Report](#)

## New HIV Infections

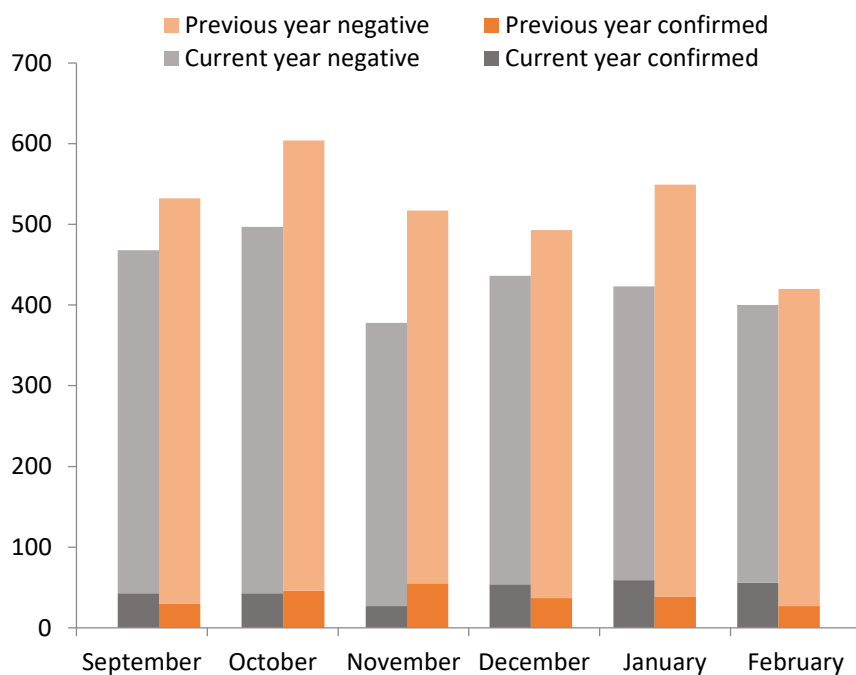


**Figure 3:** Monthly comparison of rate of new HIV infections in Milwaukee County and the City of Milwaukee, using data obtained from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Numbers are provisional and subject to change.

For statewide HIV data, visit:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/hiv/data.htm>

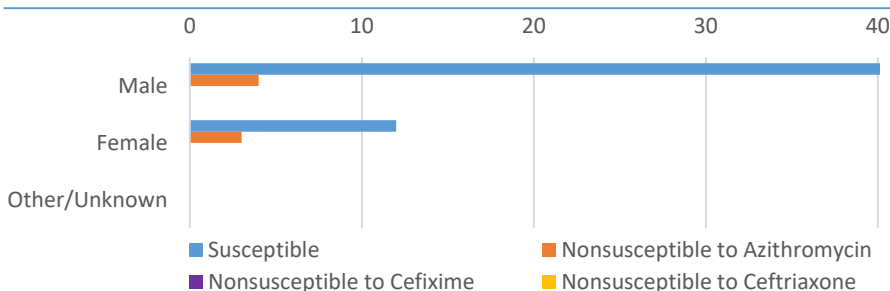
## Syphilis Surveillance



**Figure 4:** Monthly comparison of syphilis data with year over year comparisons.

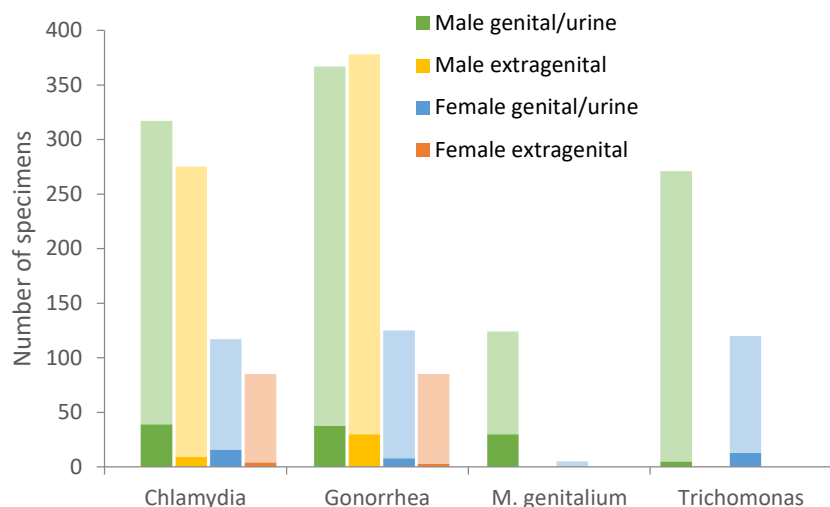
*Number of specimens screened at MHD, darker bars represent confirmed tests.*

## Gonorrhea Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing



**Figure 5:** Antibiotic susceptibility profile of Gonorrhea isolates identified in males and females. In February 2021, 7 of 61 cultures tested were found to be nonsusceptible to Azithromycin according to CLSI guidelines. MHD tests for antibiotic resistance to Azithromycin, Ceftriaxone, Cefixime and Gentamicin.

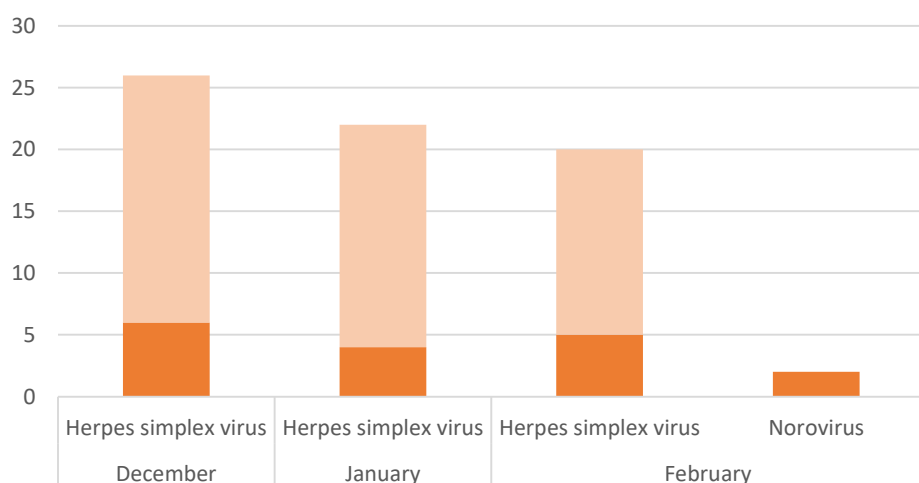
## Sexually Transmitted Infections by Source



**Figure 6:** Distribution of STIs detected using NAAT. In February 2021, 8.1% of male and 9.9% of female specimens screened were positive for Chlamydia. 11.1% of male and 11.4% of female specimens were positive for Gonorrhea. 26.9% of male and 6 of the 10 female specimens were positive for *M. genitalium*. 3.5% of male specimens and 16.5% of female specimens were positive for *Trichomonas*.

*Note: Darker bars indicate positive specimens.*

## Viral Surveillance

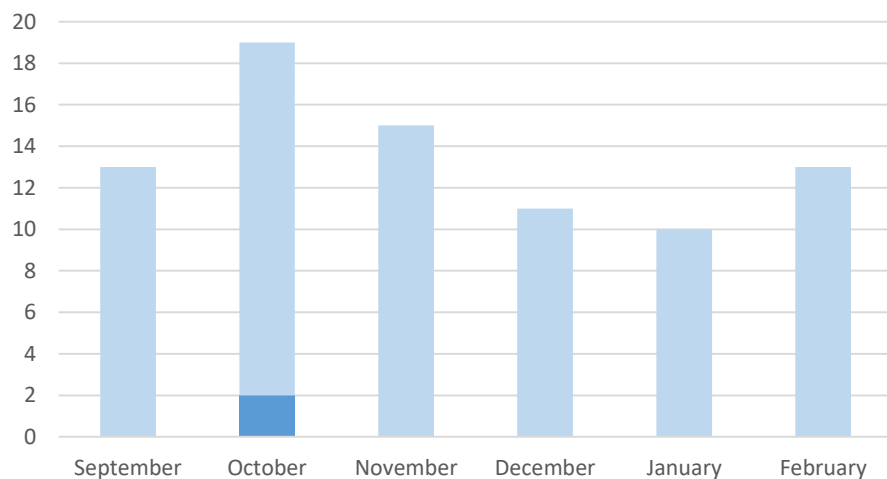


**Figure 7:** Specimens tested using molecular methods.

*Note: Height of bar indicates number of specimens tested.*

*Darker bars indicate DNA/RNA detected by virus culture, real-time PCR and/or nucleotide sequencing analysis.*

## Legionella Testing



**Figure 8:** Clinical specimens tested using culture and molecular methods.

\*MHDL is one of the CDC ELITE certified sites for environmental *Legionella* testing. See the Winter 2019 issue of the [APHL Bridges newsletter](#) for more information.

*Note: Darker bars indicate confirmed Legionella pneumophila by culture and/or real-time PCR.*